

CareerFocus

PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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Ahead of the Curve on 'Protect and Serve'

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Piedmont Technical College
PO Box 1467
Greenwood, SC 29648



**MORE
ON THE
INSIDE**

**FACTS
& FINDS**

**SOUTH CAROLINA
IS HIRING!**

**QUICKSKILLS PROGRAM: DESIGNED TO
SOLVE IMMEDIATE WORKFORCE NEEDS**

MAKE THIS THE YEAR YOU START YOUR DEGREE

Choosing which college to attend is an important decision, and it's not one to be taken lightly. A lot of people think they know what Piedmont Technical College has to offer. If you're not considering it as a way to reach your goals, you're missing out on some really big opportunities.

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1

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2

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Questions about the PTC programs and services described in this publication should be directed to the Office of Admissions at (855) 446-3864. Comments or questions about the publication itself can be directed to the PTC Office of Marketing and Public Relations at (864) 941-8669.

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Institutional Mission

Piedmont Technical College transforms lives and strengthens communities by providing opportunities for intellectual and economic growth.

The College, a member of the South Carolina Technical College System, is a public comprehensive two-year postsecondary institution. Piedmont Technical College contributes to the economic growth and development of the largest and most diverse region of the technical college system, Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties and to the state. The College responds to the academic, training and public service needs of the community through excellence in teaching and educational services. Piedmont Technical College's open admissions policy provides accessibility for individuals with diverse backgrounds the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills for employment in engineering technology, industrial technology, agriculture, business, health, and public service. Piedmont Technical College graduates develop competencies in communication, mathematics, problem solving and technology.

The College offers university transfer; associate degrees, diplomas and certificates in technical and occupational areas; college preparatory programs; student development programs providing academic, career and individual support; and custom-designed credit and non-credit programs to provide training for business and industry and to meet the needs of the community. To optimize access to higher education in the rural seven-county service area, Piedmont Technical College offers distance learning courses through multiple modes of delivery.

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CareerFocus

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Christina Pope, Criminal Justice Graduate.



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Get career and college tips anytime online at:
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It's the easy way to share articles, access Piedmont Technical College resources and get on the path to a new career.



Facts and Finds



Are you a creative soul?

Do you have the ability to dream up new and useful ideas?

Recently Harvard researcher Roger Beaty and his colleagues made two mind-bending (pardon the pun) discoveries:

- The whole “left-brain, right-brain” idea we’ve been hearing for years is wrong.
- It is very likely that creativity can be learned. We should not consider ourselves “stuck” if we aren’t as creative as we’d like to be.

Beaty’s group used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) machines to measure the strengths of connections between various networks in the brain. They found that these numbers corresponded to the originality of ideas!

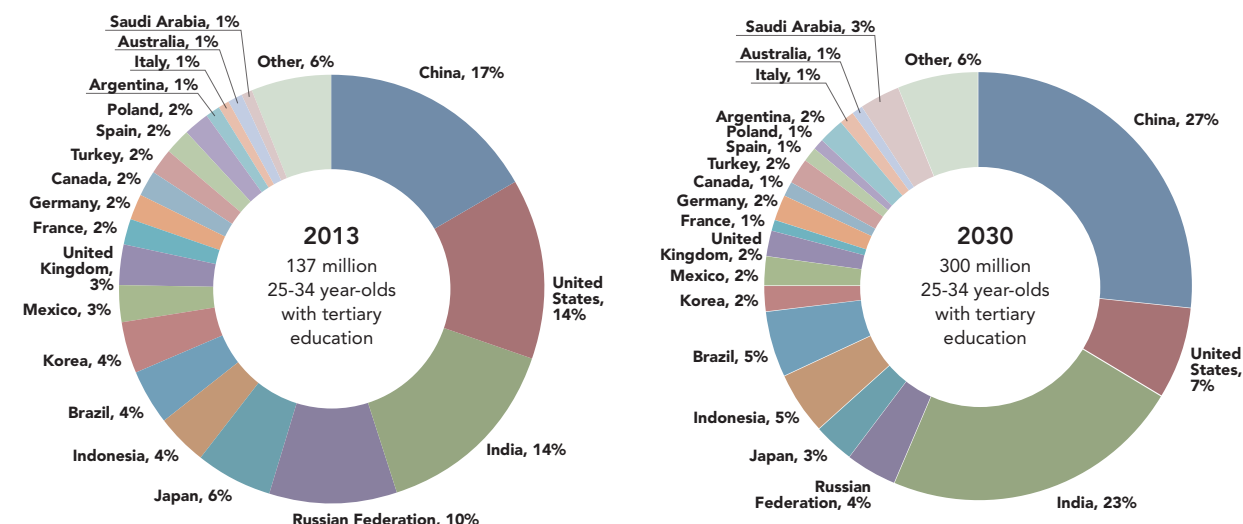
“This is a whole-brain endeavor,” Beaty said. In other words, creativity comes from different “wiring.” “People who are more creative can simultaneously engage brain networks that don’t typically work together,” he explained, describing it as “flexibility.” The research shows that three subnetworks were involved in creative thought: the default mode network deals with memory and mental simulation; the salience network detects important information and appears to sort ideas; and the executive control network keeps people on task.

“It’s the synchrony between these systems that seems to be important for creativity,” Beaty concluded. Saying he hopes the study dispels common myths, Beaty emphasized that creativity is “not something where you have it or you don’t” and suggested that it might well be developed through training.

Source: <https://sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/01/180117163954.htm>

The rise in non-traditional students worldwide

Share of 25-34 year-olds with a tertiary degree across OECD and G20 countries (2013, 2030)



Credit: StudyPortals, “Envisioning Pathways to 2030” / OECD (2015) How is the global talent pool changing?

Going back to school after working a few years? You are part of a “mega-trend” shaping the world to come! A new report on international education predicts a total of 4.3 million more students over the age of 24 in higher education over the next 15 years. The non-traditional student is on the rise and may soon be the “new” tradition.

The StudyTrends report also anticipates a 56 percent growth of higher education enrollment. Education is becoming more accessible and job-oriented all over the world.

Trevor Holmes, vice president at Dublin City University in Ireland, emphasizes that schools must find more creative ways to serve the growing numbers of non-traditional enrollees. “Institutions will have to share resources and utilize emerging technologies like [massive open online courses] in a more creative fashion, utilizing globally but assessing locally,” he said. “This will require a greater creativity in curriculum and program development.”

Internationally, more schools are:

- Advocating for lifelong learning
- Adopting online/blended learning
- Unbundling credentials
- Emphasizing career outcomes
- Specializing their institutions.

Increasing robotics and automation are opening up new opportunities for workers with “middle-level skills.” Researchers note, “technical and skilled manual work – i.e. electricians, plumbers, chefs – will be among the hardest to automate, while many degree-level occupations – e.g. law, accounting, routine computer programming, journalism, and data processing – are already being disrupted.”

Source: <http://studyportals.com/2018-megatrends-higher-education-webinar/>

Getting an associate of arts degree? You already upped your earning power!

Surprised? You don’t have to transfer to a four-year school in order to leverage your associate of arts (AA) degree. The under-reported fact is that a general education associate degree already shows you have many skills important to employers.

Communications skills, writing abilities and an aptitude for problem-solving are in high demand for today’s jobs. AA degree-holders are often highly proficient at these skills. Add Adobe Photoshop or JavaScript to the mix—and you are well on your way to a well-paying job.

For example, in 2016, more than 27,000 jobs were available to community college graduates with knowledge of the software Salesforce. These jobs paid, on average, \$64,000 a year—\$24,000 above the median salary for those with that added experience. Other sought-after skills which associate degree holders often possess include: project management, team management, business development or budgeting. In other words, combining skills you already mastered, coupled with an additional short-term credential or certificate may well be just the ticket.

The takeaway: Your skills, not degrees, are increasingly important in the changing job market. ■

Source: *Saving the Associate of Arts Degree.* <https://aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Saving-the-Associate-of-Arts-Degree.pdf>





Quickskills Program

Designed to Solve Immediate Workforce Needs

When employers come to Piedmont Tech with their workforce wish lists, increasingly they are seeking candidates with very specific skills that can be learned relatively quickly and built upon over time. PTC, in turn, customizes its academic offerings to align with industry needs. Critical to this task is the college's Quickskills certification options, which teach very specific skill sets in as little as one semester. Graduates of these programs are ready to work in entry-level positions with room for advancement.

"We have added and continue to add short-term, Quickskills programs in response to the needs of business and industry, especially manufacturing," says Rusty Denning, associate vice president of economic development and continuing education at PTC. "Our industries are having a hard time finding people with certain specialties. Instead of full programs, we try to create shorter programs that fill that immediate need of local industries."

Denning offers as an example TIG (tungsten inert gas) welding, a specialized electric arc process that uses rods on thinner-gauge materials and is known for its precision and ability to weld dissimilar forms of metal. One area manufacturer almost exclusively uses TIG welding and sometimes struggles to find qualified welders locally. That's one reason PTC offers multiple Quickskills courses in TIG, MIG and STICK welding.

Other shorter-term Quickskills courses at PTC include Precision Metrology, Machine Tool CNC Precision Operator, Manufacturing Production Technician, Introduction to Automation, Masonry and CompTIA (equips students for basic computer technology-related work and qualifies them for the Computer Technology degree program).

"Right now, industry needs employees quickly," says Dr. Jack Bagwell, PTC's vice president for academic affairs. The emerging workforce no longer sets aside four or five consecutive, concentrated years to earn a degree that may or may not equip them to work right away in jobs where they are most needed. It's becoming more common that people are earning credentials in stages while they work and contribute to the economy. "It's like an interstate, and we are building on-ramps so people can get to their short-term destination. Of course, it may not be their ultimate destination."

Bagwell says PTC works with industry advisory councils as well as analyzes workforce data to ascertain trends and needs.

"Technical colleges are providing the workforce for many industries," he says. In fact, most employers in the region are trying to fill jobs that require very technical skills. "This is exactly the kind of training technical colleges have been designed to deliver. Plus, we are providing the training in efficient and affordable ways."

"In many cases, prospective students are eligible for (state or private) financial aid to offset the cost of short-term courses," Denning says. For example, the Workforce Pathways Scholarship is a new tuition assistance program for those seeking training in information technology, advanced manufacturing and health care. "We

are using Pathways Scholarships for some of the Quickskills classes."

Pathways applicants must be at least 18 years old and residents of South Carolina. PTC offers scheduled orientation sessions every Tuesday at its Continuing Education office in Greenwood. Call 864-941-8400 for more information.

While federal programs currently don't extend financial aid for short-term education options, policymakers mindful of the strong workforce impact on our economy and who recognize the need for Quickskills are working to change that.

"The economy is cyclical, and so are the technical college curricula," says Bagwell. "We use short-term certificates when the economy demands it. You could even call it an economic indicator. ... We try to give people skill sets so they can go out and get a good job." ■

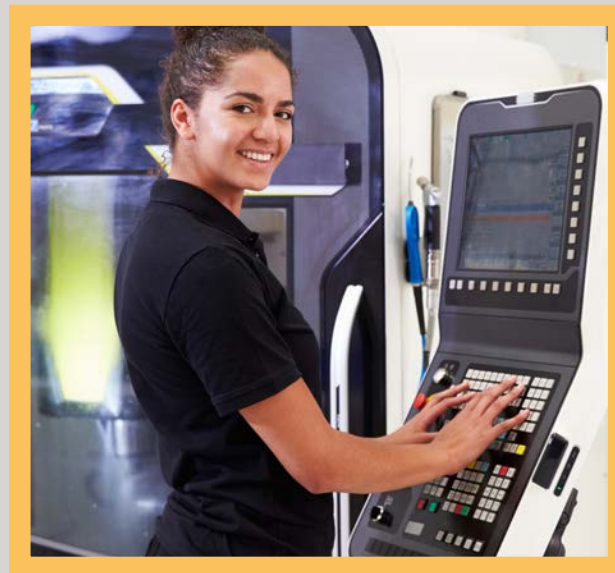
South Carolina is hiring!

Do you need to start a career, and fast? What is the secret to getting the training employers want? The latest research shows there are lots of positions waiting for qualified applicants in South Carolina.

What do many of these in-demand jobs have in common? They are innovative fields with interesting and challenging careers. And they require only a two-year associate degree or certification—available right in your neighborhood’s technical college.

Take your pick from opportunities in growing fields where a bachelor’s degree isn’t a requirement. You can avoid feeling trapped by student loan debt with an affordable technical college education—don’t forget to fill out the FAFSA to get all the help you need.

By enrolling in specialty programs, you finish with highly sought-after skills and credentials. Think about your natural interests and abilities and choose from many of the growing career fields in South Carolina. ■



RISE OF THE MACHINES

Are you a techie? Do you like to work with your hands and problem-solve? Does the complexity of machinery fascinate you?

One of the hottest job markets today is industrial manufacturing. While it may sound old school, the manufacturing trades have come a long way technologically. Mechatronics combines skills in mechanics, pneumatics, programming, and robotics and systems development. Mechatronics technicians design, build, maintain and repair automated equipment and program equipment control systems.

A major plus is stackable credentials. Maybe you’ll begin training as a computer numeric controlled (CNC) heavy machine operator, and add machining, welding and industrial maintenance. The US Bureau of Labor and Statistics forecasts that CNC heavy machinery operators jobs will grow by 17 percent from 2014 to 2024 while mechatronics will grow 15 percent from 2017-2027.

Median hourly wage in South Carolina
Mechanical Engineering Technician: **\$38.66**
Electronic Engineering Technician: **\$44.67**
Engineering Technician: **\$29.92**



A HEALING PROFESSION

Are you a “people person” with a big heart? Nurses at all levels are in demand everywhere. Piedmont Technical College offers a range of opportunities to enter this profession. There are many possible specialties: associate degree nursing, medical assisting, pharmacy technology, respiratory care, practical nursing, occupational therapy assistant and many others.

You may prefer becoming certified as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). EMTs have the emergency skills to assess patients and manage respiratory, cardiac, trauma and other crises. You can start with your EMT basic and move into additional certification as a paramedic, a highly skilled and knowledgeable health care professional who can stabilize or revive patients while being transported to a hospital.

Not only are these jobs available now, employment projections for the healing professions continue to increase as baby boomers age over the next decade.

Median hourly wage in South Carolina
Respiratory Therapists: **\$26.45**
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers: **\$29.89**
Registered Nurse: **\$29.32**
Radiologic Technologist: **\$24.24**



We're here to help you on your new career path. For more information on how PTC can help you succeed in a career of your choice, call us at 855-446-3864.



JOBS OF THE FUTURE

Do you thrive on problems of logic? Love to code? The world is increasingly interconnected with new technologies, devices, networks and systems creating great convenience—and lots of new jobs. And these high-tech jobs are not just for those with advanced degrees.

The more information produced and made available on the internet, the more complicated it becomes to process. "Big data" is more than just the data itself. It is a field of computing that involves new methods of capturing, selecting and analyzing all that information.

You may have heard of "wearable technologies" and the "internet of things." Computer technology is being woven into every aspect of our lives. Cybersecurity is one of the hottest jobs with a wide range of applications. Information security jobs are projected to grow by 40 percent or more over the next 10 years.

If information technology is your passion, PTC can set you on the pathway to a job in business or government.

Median hourly wage in South Carolina

Web Developer: **\$39.01**

Software Applications Developer: **\$45.72**

Security Analyst: **\$33.40**



THINK GREEN, JOIN THE AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION!

A crop of new, cutting-edge jobs in agriculture is already here. Interested in being a research technician? Want to get your hands dirty as a horticulture specialist? Maybe you'd like to get into drone and data technology?

The demands for sustainable food systems, adequate water resources and renewable energy under conditions of population growth and climate change make jobs in agriculture technology critically important. Job openings in agriculture and natural resources outnumber graduates in these fields. Purdue University reports that in the next five years, there will be nearly 58,000 openings every year for those qualified in agriculture, food, renewable natural resources, and the environment.

Excellent local, regional and state employment opportunities exist in a myriad of specialties.

Median hourly wage in South Carolina

Farm Manager: **\$38.59**

Agricultural Inspector: **\$19.25**



A growing industry

Agriculture embraces technology as well as traditional work ethic



During a time when technology drives our economy, you may be surprised to learn that one of South Carolina's oldest industries – agribusiness – is also one of its fastest-growing.

And you also might be surprised at the number of farmers who drive their tractors with a laptop by their side.

"Precision agriculture is really getting to be big," says Roger Estridge, diversified agriculture instructor at Piedmont Technical College. "Think about how much we use smartphones and computers."

South Carolina agribusiness – farming, forestry, horticulture and related businesses – has grown by 23 percent over the past decade, according to the S.C. Department of Commerce. Its annual statewide economic impact is estimated at more than \$41 million, and it accounts for approximately 98,000 direct jobs, including approximately 2,000 created in 2017.

"Sometimes we kind of take that for granted," says Rusty Denning, interim dean for engineering and industrial technologies at Piedmont Tech. "You see the fields, but you don't see the technology and businesses behind them."

Agriculture at PTC

The Piedmont Technical College School of Agriculture offers certificate and associate degree programs in diversified agriculture and horticulture. The certificate and degree programs in diversified agriculture are based at the Saluda County Campus, while the horticulture landscape management certificate and horticulture technology degree are offered in Greenwood.

All feature hybrid courses, where students view lectures online but come to campus for labs.

The basic diversified agriculture certificate provides students with technical knowledge of everything from animal science to welding.

"It can help you get any kind of entry-level job," Estridge says.

It can also lead to the associate degree program, which, in turn, can lead to the job market or a bachelor's degree at a four-year college.

"A good many students transfer to Clemson," Estridge says. "And a lot of employers are looking for folks with an associate."

The horticulture landscape management certificate takes two semesters to complete, while the associate degree takes five. Horticulture Program Director Daniel Greenwell says hard work and soft skills are the keys to success.

"If you want to thrive in this, you need to have attention to detail," he says. "Maintaining things to a high standard is really gratifying."

A Positive Outlook

Horticulture associate degree graduates can earn \$25,000-\$35,000 per year right out of school, according to Greenwell. Nationally, the median annual salary for an agricultural worker is \$22,540, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In South Carolina, the median annual salary for farmworkers or laborers is \$26,050, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, while supervisors can earn more than twice that amount.

South Carolina agribusiness – farming, forestry, horticulture and related businesses – has grown by 23 percent over the past decade, according to the S.C. Department of Commerce.



PROFILE

Lucy Charping

Finding a path to her career goals

Lucy Wetzel Charping was only about 60 miles from Clemson University but wasn't sure exactly how to get there.

Financially or academically.

"I wanted to go into agriculture education at Clemson, but I knew I couldn't afford to go to Clemson for four years," Charping says.

While a student at Emerald High School in Greenwood, Charping had already earned some college credits through Piedmont Technical College's Dual Enrollment program, so she entered the PTC agriculture program after graduating high school.

"When I got to Piedmont Tech, I knew I wanted to transfer to Clemson," Charping says, but she needed a plan. She found helpful mentors at PTC, made the transfer, and graduated from Clemson in 2015 with the bachelor's degree in agriculture education she always wanted.

Charping grew up around her parents' farm, helping to raise laying hens and beef cattle. She participated in Saluda County's 4-H program as a youngster and now works for the Clemson Cooperative Extension service as 4-H agent for Greenwood County.

"I am the first full-time 4-H agent in Greenwood County in probably 20 years," she says. "I love what I do. It's a program that takes young people and molds them into the kinds of adults you want standing alongside you."

Along with agriculture education, 4-H provides learn-by-doing lessons that range from technology to public speaking to cooking.

"It's such a good feeling when you can teach a child something and then they can go and show someone what they've learned," Charping says.

Farming has always been in Charping's blood. Now Piedmont Tech is, too.

"I'm proud to say I'm from Piedmont Technical College," she says, "because that's what helped make me who I am." ■

"A turfgrass superintendent's job can pay six figures," Greenwell says.

And workers with horticulture degrees can be found in a variety of places.

"There are jobs in botanical gardens, like Biltmore Estate," Greenwell says. "You can even be a private gardener on a private island in the Caribbean."

Closer to home is Wyatt Farms in Greenwood. Its carefully landscaped grounds include a retail garden shop and nursery, an art studio, and a landscape design and installation firm, all surrounded by 30 acres of forest.

"We're going through a hiring phase right now," says Wyatt Thompson, who owns the business with his wife, Bess. "The past four to five years have seen a lot of growth as far as our industry and our company."

Several PTC students have worked at Wyatt Farms. Associate degree graduate Joey Nicastro serves as installation foreman. When Thompson looks at job applicants, he says a knowledge of plants and chemicals is "a big plus."

"We want to bring on industrious and hard-working people," he says. The Piedmont Tech students he's

interacted with "are seeking a lot of knowledge and trying to soak it up. It's good to see that hunger."

Technical knowledge has become a big part of agribusiness. Estridge describes a farm with high-tech chores such as flying a drone across distant fields to gather data.

"You've got to have people who are able to read all of that," he says. And once the data is crunched, farmers use smartphone apps to regulate things such as fertilizer and irrigation.

Piedmont Tech taps into the latest trends by maintaining advisory boards comprised of South Carolina agribusiness leaders for both agriculture and horticulture.

"Our students in agriculture and horticulture can feel comfortable knowing they'll be up to date on the knowledge and skills that local employers are looking for," Denning says. ■

Ahead of the Curve on 'Protect and Serve'

Current events have focused increasing attention on public safety, gun laws, and the criminal justice system in general. Civic demonstrations related to the latest high-profile school shootings add concerns about security in what can be an insecure world. The bottom line is that communities — and the people who live in them — need to feel safe. Serving the public in this capacity takes a special type of individual, someone with both empathy and acute critical thinking skills, someone with both moral conviction and respect for the rule of law.



Piedmont Technical College's associate in applied science (AAS) degree with a major in criminal justice offers a solid foundation that graduates can take immediately into entry-level public service work or build on by transferring into more advanced studies at a four-year institution. Students who choose the AAS in criminal justice path at PTC receive a comprehensive introduction to criminal justice concepts such as criminology, constitutional law, juvenile delinquency, police-community relations and evidence science as

well as insight into the courts and corrections systems.

"Our goal at PTC is to provide students with the educational background and tools to succeed no matter how far they want to go professionally in the criminal justice system," said Josh Lindsay, PTC's criminal justice program director. "Our faculty brings a broad range of experience in a variety of settings to the lab and classroom. They are uniquely qualified to help students

make important career choices from the range of options available."

Entry-level criminal justice job options include:

- police officer;
- sheriff's deputy;
- dispatcher;
- corrections officer;
- state trooper;
- security officer;
- juvenile court officer; and
- probation technician

Because today's law enforcement work depends heavily on scientific methodologies and technology, PTC has invested in state-of-the-art laboratory facilities to enable students to participate in realistic police training simulations and to practice common crime scene evidence collection and analysis exercises. Students have access to a mobile crime scene processing unit as well. Special software lets students reconstruct crime scenes and facilitate suspect sketches.

PTC's firearms training system safely simulates real-world situations in a controlled environment that would be impossible to replicate otherwise. Few colleges in the region have the capacity that PTC has to offer high-tech, simulated law enforcement curricula.

Workplace Exposure

Toward the conclusion of the program — with a background check and basic coursework soundly under their

belts — students embark on a 90-hour criminal justice internship with a participating agency of their choice.

"I am a huge advocate for the value of practical, hands-on experience," Lindsay said. "In the workplace setting, students can observe real-world professionalism, learn policy and procedures, and interact with criminal justice authorities."

PTC enjoys positive working relationships with agencies all over the region, and officials work diligently to ensure that students are placed with agencies that match their interests.

While in the program, students are introduced to the American Criminal Justice Association, a criminal justice trade organization dedicated to fostering professionalism and support across the industry. Students also attend ACJA's annual regional conference, which allows them to network with veteran practitioners, attend compelling workshops and experience the proud camaraderie of the profession.

"The demand for criminal justice practitioners remains strong across the Southeast, and the range of opportunities is vast," Lindsey said. "I am extremely confident in the ability of our graduates to secure fulfilling positions that will allow them to thrive professionally and personally."

PTC Criminal Justice graduates earn an average starting salary of about \$28,000 and have strong potential for advancement.

For those interested in pursuing education beyond their associate

degree, PTC maintains agreements with several four-year institutions that readily accept transfer credits toward bachelor's and higher degree programs in criminal justice. PTC also offers programs that benefit experienced practitioners wishing to add new skills.

"Many criminal justice practitioners who have been employed for years with various agencies come to PTC seeking updated training and certification so they can qualify for professional advancement mid-career," Lindsay said. "Between our accomplished instructors and innovative facilities, PTC produces some of the most qualified, highly skilled criminal justice graduates in the state"

From Recruited to Recruiter

Newberry Police Chief Roy McClurkin has witnessed a lot in the three-plus decades he's ascended through the department, from patrolman to corporal to sergeant to captain and now as chief. The Whitmire native knows what it takes to persevere, even when some cases may be sad or even disturbing. Staying calm. Using sound judgment. Maintaining professionalism. It all comes from training, and before that, the educational foundation to support a career in criminal justice.

Chief McClurkin knows the quality of a Piedmont Technical College education because he received one, having studied criminal justice himself at PTC. When the Newberry Police Department contacted

campus officials in search of new talent, McClurkin's academic advisor suggested he apply. And the Department hired him as a patrolman in 1983.

"I've touched every rank within this department, which is kind of unique in this day and time," McClurkin told The Newberry Observer in 2015.

The adage "the more things change, the more they stay the same" actually applies here. When Chief McClurkin sees the need to fill new positions, he turns to a familiar, trusted source — PTC.

"The criminal justice program at PTC has a long and successful history that has benefited this department and other departments within this area," he said. "I am a product of the program. That is why I am involved. They turn out great people."

McClurkin believes that students seeking certifications through PTC are especially interested in living and serving within the communities they love. They are invested in their community and have that extra commitment to succeed locally. Years ago, PTC's instructors saw the potential in McClurkin, and they are continually engaged with and supportive of their students.

"Whenever Piedmont Tech has a career fair, we are committed to sending people," he said. "Their career fairs are important in helping us fill our future needs." ■



PROFILE

Christina Pope From Graduate to Magistrate

Petite but powerful, Christina Pope had no trouble handling suspects twice her size as a former Richland County Sheriff's Deputy. And today, the Piedmont Technical College graduate is making an equally strong impression in the courtroom as a Richland County magistrate judge.

"If you have never met me, you would not know I had a career in law enforcement," Pope said. "I'm a small woman, but at the same time, I have a tough-woman persona. I wasn't just on the force. I was very successful during my law enforcement career. I was part of the Gang Task Force. ... I am a lady, but I don't look like I can actually take someone down and handcuff them."

Thinking back, Pope faced formidable challenges. She is grateful for the opportunities available to her at PTC.

"I would definitely recommend Piedmont Tech. As a single mother just getting out on my own trying to find my way, it was perfect for me," Pope explained. "The schedule allowed me to attend school, to work and to raise a son by myself. The support that I had and the staff and educators there, they made my journey much easier. I think it encouraged me in a way that I was able to see that possibilities could become realities. My goals didn't seem out of reach."

Pope has been busy since she earned her Associate Degree in Public Service (majoring in criminal justice) from PTC in 2004. She served for 13 years in a number of roles with the Richland County Sheriff's Department (RCSD). During that time, she earned bachelor's and master's degrees, both in criminal justice, from South University. Most recently, Pope was sworn in as a magistrate judge for bail proceedings in Richland County in April 2017.

"I am enjoying it and learning a lot. I worked in law enforcement for 13 years," she said. "Now I am seeing the other side of that." ■



The Modern Office

New Certificates Provide Training for Today's Business Environment

The clicking of keys ranks among the country's more common workday sounds and for good reason. Keyboards control sophisticated systems. Acquiring the knowledge and skills a computer-based work environment demands has never been more critical. To better provide skills essential to workplace success, Piedmont Technical College is adding three new certificate programs.



The administrative office technology department is adding two new certificates—the Customer Service and Support certificate and the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certificate. In addition, the college's business program is adding the Human Resource Management certificate.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jack Bagwell said, "These programs are in response to needs that have been expressed by our employers and our advisory committees. We anticipate these programs will be well-received by employers and students alike."



Customer-Centric Training

The administrative office technology major prepares students to work in the modern office where software

packages commonly used include telephone systems, information-processing, accounting and database management. Certification in these systems helps students work independently and better manage office administration. PTC's Customer Service and Support certificate prepares students to pursue entry-level customer service positions. Mastering basic computer applications and office technology skills will help them better assist supervisors charged with customer support services.

MOS certification helps students develop skills essential to success when working with Microsoft Word, Access, Outlook, PowerPoint and Excel applications, which are common in the modern workplace. MOS certification can increase students' employment potential and lead to higher entry-level salaries.

The certificates consist of 24 credit hours, which can be completed in as little as two semesters.

"We're very excited about the new certificates," said Menka Brown, PTC instructor in administrative office technology. "We believe each will help our students develop the skills they need to make them more competitive in the job market. We also feel either certificate would be an outstanding starting point for students to continue their education toward an associate degree and beyond."

Opening New Doors

Suzy Murray, a PTC business department instructor, proposed and

championed the Human Resource Management certificate.

"The Human Resource Management certificate will open new doors of opportunities for our students. With the recent addition of the Professional Human Resources certification option, our graduates can further distinguish themselves as highly qualified human resource professionals."

To learn more about PTC's administrative office technology and business certificates, contact Menka Brown at (864) 941-8343 or visit www.ptc.edu.

The Human Resource Management certificate prepares students to pursue entry-level HR generalist positions. Students learn basic types of management and supervisory skills, employment laws that affect the workplace and the functions all HR professionals perform in business and industry. This certificate consists of 12 credit hours, which may be completed in one semester.

Dr. Bagwell said PTC is bringing online several new programs, including these, that will let students upgrade skill sets and use these skills to find employment. "These programs will also allow the student to come back and apply those same courses to other credentials moving forward," he said. "Students do not always take direct pathways through their educational journeys. They need to be able to move between the worlds of higher education and work as seamlessly as possible. These programs will help some of our students do just that." ■





Where Do You Want to Go?

For many people, deciding on a career can feel like taking a journey without either a map or a destination. Eventually, with some advice and direction, a little exploration and maybe a dead end or two, you begin to get a sense of where you'd like to go and how to get there. Whether you're just starting out or picking up a new career mid-life, Piedmont Tech offers courses and services to help you find your path and get to your goal.

Good advice and good resources are the best road maps. PTC's Counseling, Career Planning and Employment Services can help you explore your options and get started on a plan of action. Academic advisors, too, can help you choose the right classes for your goal.

PTC's 80+ certificate, diploma and degree programs are some of the best vehicles around for taking you to your career destinations. In a year or less a certificate can get you into a job, in two years an associate degree can move you a little farther along your career path, and transferring to a four-year college will take you even farther.

Map out your options by taking a look at the PTC A-Z listing below. And when you're ready to start planning your career, visit www.ptc.edu to find out how to enroll in classes. Call the Admissions Office at (855) 446-3864 for answers to your questions. ■



UNIVERSITY TRANSFER PROGRAMS

If you're headed toward a bachelor's degree, we can help you get there. Piedmont Tech offers more than 80 courses that transfer to any public university or college in South Carolina, and hundreds of PTC students transfer credits earned at Piedmont Tech to universities throughout the state each year.

Associate in Arts

The Associate in Arts program prepares students for four-year baccalaureate majors in fields such as business, accounting, management, English, journalism, social work, education, music, psychology, history, pre-law, humanities, fine arts and social sciences.

Associate in Science

The Associate in Science degree stresses mathematics, as well as natural and physical sciences, and prepares students for four-year baccalaureate majors in those fields, plus engineering, pre-med, veterinary medicine, chiropractic and education.

Transfer Partnerships & Career Path Transfers

PTC has established specific transfer agreements with more than 19 colleges and universities, as well as specific career path transfers in areas such as business, criminal justice, engineering technology, education and many more. Talk to your advisor to decide which path is right for you.

For more information, visit www.ptc.edu/transfer



AGRICULTURE

We all know that agriculture is an important part of South Carolina's heritage. But did you know that agriculture-based businesses play a critical and expanding role in the growth of the state's economy? In fact, agribusiness is one of the largest economic clusters in the state and a critically important part of the knowledge-based economy.

Diversified Agriculture

Provides students with advanced technical knowledge in sustainable agriculture, field crop production, pest management, soil and water management, hydraulics and pneumatics, agriculture economics and marketing related to the agricultural industry.

A.A.S., Major in Diversified Agriculture
Basic Diversified Agriculture Certificate

Horticulture Technology

Students are prepared for supervisory, middle management and technical positions in horticulture, including landscape design, implementation and maintenance.

A.A.S., Major in Horticulture Technology
Horticulture Landscape Management Certificate

South Carolina Mean Salaries
Farmer - \$69,620
Agricultural Technician - \$34,360
Nursery Operator - \$27,290



BUSINESS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

If you're a good communicator who enjoys solving problems, a career in business might be right for you. Computers have also become an indispensable part of everyday life. Majoring in Computer Technology at Piedmont Tech will give you the knowledge and skills you'll need to get started in Information Technology and computer science.

Administrative Office Technology

Actual work experience and instruction in keyboarding, word processing, spreadsheet applications, transcription, office procedures, communication, accounting and more give graduates the ability to work independently and handle the details of office administration.

A.A.S., Major in Administrative Office Technology
Office Technician Certificate
MOS Certificate
Customer Service and Support Certificate

Business Administration

Probably no other occupational area encompasses a more diverse range of activities than the business field.

A.A.S., Major in Business Administration
Accounting Certificate
Entrepreneurship Certificate

South Carolina Mean Salaries
Tax Preparer - \$34,260
Medical Transcriptionist - \$34,580





BUSINESS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

Commercial Art

If you have an artistic streak and you enjoy solving problems by thinking creatively and interacting with computers, you should consider a major in Commercial Art.

A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Commercial Art

- Concentrations in advertising design, digital rendering and photography

Advertising Design Certificate

Digital Rendering and Gaming Development Certificate

Photography Certificate

Computer Technology

Students study computer maintenance, local-and wide-area networks and popular programming languages. Graduates are truly prepared to take their place in the Information Age.

A.A.S., Major in Computer Technology

PC Technician Certificate



QUICKSKILLS ADVANCED TRAINING OPTION

In direct consultation with employers in our region, PTC has designed several programs that will prepare you directly for entry-level employment in two semesters or less. These credentials are stackable—they'll allow you to get to work quickly, then continue your studies when you're ready to advance.

After completing one of these certificates, you'll be qualified to start work in jobs that employers are ready to fill today. And when you are ready to make the move to extend your training, you can apply these credits to other programs at PTC.

COMPTIA Certificate

Human Resource Management

Introduction to Automation Certificate

Machine Tool CNC Precision Operator

Manufacturing Production Technician

Masonry Certificate

MIG Welding Certificate

Precision Metrology Certificate

STICK Welding Certificate

TIG Welding Certificate



ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Cybersecurity Certificate

Certified IT Professional Certificate

If you're fascinated by technology and enjoy a hands-on approach to problem solving, Engineering Technology may be the right career path for you.

Electronic Engineering Technology

The graduate is skilled in the operation, troubleshooting, calibration and repair of electronic instruments and systems found in process control, communications, computers, manufacturing, programmable logic controllers and microprocessors.

A.A.S., Major in Electronic Engineering Technology

Engineering Design Technology

All phases of manufacturing or construction require the conversion of new ideas and design concepts into the basic line language of graphics.

A.A.S., Major in Engineering Design Technology

Mechanical Engineering Technology

The Mechanical Engineering Technology curriculum equips the graduate for: performing a key role in the mechanical design process; installing, troubleshooting and repairing mechanical and electro-mechanical equipment; programming CNC machine tools, computers, programmable controllers and robots; and performing general maintenance functions.

South Carolina Mean Salaries

Electrical and Electronics

Drafter - \$63,070

Electronic Engineering

Technician - \$59,480

Mechanical Engineering

Technician - \$53,740



ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Engineering Bachelor's Degree Options

Agreements have been developed to provide options for transfer into three bachelor's degree programs: The USC Electrical Engineering or Mechanical Engineering programs; SCSU's bachelor of science in Electrical Engineering Technology (BSEET) degree or the bachelor of science in Mechanical Engineering Technology (BSMET) degree programs; and USC Upstate's Engineering Technology Management B.S. program.



INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

A.A.S., Major in Mechanical Engineering Technology

Students enrolled in any of the Industrial Technology curricula will gain practical experience and technical knowledge. Well-equipped labs, broad-based programs and hands-on opportunities make the difference in their futures.

Automotive Technology

Students are trained to perform quality maintenance, diagnosis and repair of complex modern vehicles.

A.A.S., Major in Automotive Technology Automotive Fundamentals Certificate

Building Construction Technology

Students gain practical training in estimating building costs, carpentry, cabinet making, residential wiring, blueprint reading, brick masonry, construction, building codes and safety.

A.A.S., Major in Building Construction Technology Carpentry Certificate

Gunsmithing

A.A.S., Major in General Technology - Gunsmithing Advanced Gunsmithing Certificate

Introduction to Gunsmithing Certificate

Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Technology

Students in this program are educated in the installation, maintenance and repair of air conditioning, refrigeration and heating systems.

A.A.S., Major in Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning Technology

Heating Fundamentals Certificate

Refrigeration Applications Certificate

HVACR Installers Certificate

Machine Tool Technology

Students in this program get training and practical experience in machining operations used in the manufacturing industry. The graduate is skilled in the use of precision equipment and can make intricate parts.

A.A.S., Major in Machine Tool Technology

D.A.S., Major in Machine Tool

Computerized Numerical Control Certificate

Machine Tool Operator Certificate

Mechatronics Technology

Combining electronic, mechanical, robotics and information system technologies, this program provides the graduate with the skill set needed for today's automated manufacturing facilities.

A.A.S., Major in Mechatronics Technology

Mechatronics Technology I Certificate

Electrical Maintenance Technician Certificate

Welding

Students learn to join metal by use of gas-fueled torches and electric arc processes.

A.A.S., Major in General Technology - Welding

D.A.S., Major in Welding

Basic Welding Certificate

South Carolina Mean Salaries

Automotive Technician - \$38,810

Carpenter - \$40,970

HVAC Technician - \$42,620

Electronics Technician - \$59,480

CNC Machine Tool

Operator - \$39,780

Welder - \$43,310



With the complexity and diversity of today's health care system, varieties of health care professionals are needed. To function effectively by providing safe, knowledgeable patient care, the health care professional needs a thorough understanding of basic sciences and individual curriculum theory.

Cardiovascular Technology

The Cardiovascular Technologist performs diagnostic tests which are used in the diagnosis, treatment, and serial follow-up of patients with cardiovascular disease.

A.A.S., Major in Cardiovascular Technology

Emergency Medical Technician

The Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) is a vital link in the health care chain. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) are employed in areas such as emergency ambulances, private non-emergent transport services, clinics, and other allied health care settings.

Emergency Medical Technician Certificate

Funeral Service

This program provides the educational foundation needed to seek South Carolina licensure both as an embalmer and as a funeral director.

A.A.S., Major in Funeral Service

Funeral Service Education Certificate

Embalmer's Certificate

Human Services

The program prepares students to work in diverse settings such as group homes; correctional, mental retardation and mental health settings; family, child and youth service agencies; and programs concerned with alcoholism, drug abuse, family violence and aging.

A.A.S., Major in Human Services

Massage Therapy

Massage Therapy is one of the fastest growing professions in the health care field. There is an ever-increasing acceptance of massage as a holistic approach to health care and health maintenance.

A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Massage Therapy

Massage Therapy Certificate

Medical Assisting

The Medical Assisting program prepares a multi-skilled graduate to function in clinical and administrative areas of the physician's office and ambulatory care centers.

A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Medical Assisting

D.A.S., Major in Medical Assisting

Nursing

The Nursing program will assist students in developing the intellectual, technical and professional competencies necessary to practice. Upon successful completion of the NCLEX licensure exam by the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina, graduates can seek employment as licensed registered nurses or licensed practical nurses, depending on their program of study.

A.A.S., Major in Nursing

D.A.S., Major in Practical Nursing

LPN to ADN Nursing Transition Option

Occupational Therapy Assistant

As only one of three two-year programs of its kind in South Carolina, Piedmont Technical College's Occupational Therapy Assistant program is a great option for students seeking this in-demand training in the Upstate and Midlands.

A.A.S., Major in Occupational Therapy Assistant

Patient Care Technician

Because health care is changing at an unprecedented pace, new or varied approaches to patient care are emerging. One such approach is the use of multi-skilled individuals known as Patient Care Technicians who are a part of the health care team.

A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Patient Care Technician

Patient Care Technician Certificate

Pharmacy Technology

Graduates of the pharmacy technology diploma are health care professionals who assist the pharmacist in a hospital or clinical setting to provide quality health care related to medication administration in an institutional setting.

A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Pharmacy Technology

D.A.S., Major in Pharmacy Technology

South Carolina Mean Salaries

Cardiovascular Technologist - \$56,630
 Funeral Director - \$42,830
 Human Services Assistant - \$30,860
 Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) - \$40,390
 Massage Therapist - \$39,660
 Pharmacy Technician - \$30,060
 Radiologic Technologist - \$52,170
 Respiratory Therapist - \$55,780
 Registered Nurse (RN) - \$63,630
 Veterinary Technologist - \$30,930

Phlebotomy Technician

This certificate program provides students with the basic skills necessary for the collection of laboratory blood specimens.

Phlebotomy Technician Certificate

Radiologic Technology

The Radiologic Technology curriculum is designed to assist students in acquiring the general and technical competencies necessary to enter the radiography field.

A.A.S., Major in Radiologic Technology

Respiratory Care

The respiratory care practitioner is trained to assist the medical staff with the treatment, management and care of patients with cardiopulmonary abnormalities or deficiencies.

A.A.S., Major in Respiratory Care

Surgical Technology

Surgical technologists are members of the operating team who work closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists, RNs and other personnel to deliver patient care before, during and after surgery.

A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Surgical Technology

D.A.S., Major in Surgical Technology

Veterinary Technology

The veterinary technician works under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The specialized training received will allow the graduate to seek employment in such areas as clinical medicine, laboratory animal medicine, emergency medicine, pharmaceutical sales, food inspection and government agencies.

A.A.S., Major in Veterinary Technology

Students interested in a career in Public Service may choose majors in Criminal Justice or Early Care and Education.

South Carolina Mean Salaries

Police Officer - \$42,330
 Preschool or Daycare Director - \$44,480
 Preschool Teacher - \$27,840

Criminal Justice

This program is designed to prepare professionally-educated and competent criminal justice practitioners for careers within the criminal justice system.

A.A.S., Major in Criminal Justice

Early Care and Education

The Early Care and Education program offers a combination of classroom instruction and supervised, hands-on experience that prepares students for direct entry into the field of Early Care and Education.

A.A.S., Major in Early Care and Education

A.A.S., Major in Early Care and Education, Infant/Toddler Care Concentration

Early Childhood Development Certificate

Infant/Toddler Certificate

The General Technology degree is designed to provide students with an opportunity to upgrade diploma or certificate programs. The program is designed to be substantially individualized to meet the needs of employees who have or seek to have broad technical responsibilities.

General Technology

The major in General Technology is designed to provide students with an opportunity to upgrade diploma or certificate programs into broader occupational degrees. The program is designed to be substantially individualized to meet the needs of employees who have or seek to have broad technical responsibilities. Total credit hours for this degree must equal 60 or more. Students in the following program areas, with general education courses, may earn an associate in applied science with a general major in general technology: Welding, Gunsmithing, Commercial Art, and Health Science.

A.A.S. = Associate in Applied Science, D.A.S. = Diploma in Applied Science

Source: https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_sc.htm

IT'S YOUR MOVE

MAKE IT COUNT

Deciding on the right career or the best path to a bachelor's degree is an important decision. And we know you have questions.

Maybe you're paying for college out of your own pocket, and you're not quite sure how to cover the tuition and fees. Maybe you're ready to step out of your comfort zone to pursue the career you've always wanted, but you're unsure of the direction you should take. Whatever questions you have, **Piedmont Technical College can help you find the path to a successful future.**

So, don't let anything hold you back from following your dreams.

Get started today at makeitptc.com.

ABBEVILLE COUNTY CAMPUS

143 Hwy 72 W
Abbeville, South Carolina
(864) 446-8324

CENTER FOR ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

109 Innovation Drive
Laurens, South Carolina
(864) 682-3702

EDGEFIELD COUNTY CAMPUS

506 Main Street
Edgefield, South Carolina
(803) 637-5388

LEX WALTERS CAMPUS-GREENWOOD

620 N. Emerald Road
Greenwood, South Carolina
(864) 941-8324

LAURENS COUNTY CAMPUS

663 Medical Ridge Road
Clinton, South Carolina
(864) 938-1505

MCCORMICK COUNTY CAMPUS

1008 Kelly Street
McCormick, South Carolina
(864) 852-3191

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(803) 276-9000

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